Statutory posts have been downgraded with a view to get them filled up at the earliest. Other vacancies keep occurring from time to time and efforts are made to fill them up as per norms in vogue.

(c) to (e) The Brahmaputra Board has been concentrating in preparing Master Plans and conducting surveys and investigations for preparing Detailed Project Reports for major projects in Brahmaputra and Barak Valley. The Government of India has now decided to activate the Brahmaputra Board to make its functioning more effective and broad based for implementing flood management projects such as Pagladiya Dam Project and Drainage Development Schemes.

Construction of Dams in Himachal Pradesh

3955. SHRI ANIL SHARMA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of dams which are being planned in Himachal Pradesh during the next five years;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been made in this behalf with the details of the places etc; and

(c) the manner in which Government plan to raise resources for such dams ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (c) Irrigation being a State subject, Irrigation Projects are surveyed, planned, investigated and executed by the State Governments themselves as per their own priorities and out of their own resources. The Government of Himachal Pradesh has submitted detailed project reports in respect of one Multiple-purpose Project and nine Hydro Electric Projects envisaging construction of dams for clearance of the Centre.

Closing of Orissa lift Irrigation Scheme

3956. SHRI GANDHI AZAD : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that World Bank reports have suggested to close down the Orissa Lift Irrigation as the organisation is sustaining annual loss of Rs. 40 crores; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (b) No, Sir. The World Bank Supervision Mission for Orissa Water Resources Consolidation Project (January, 2000) has, however, suggested downsizing the Orissa Lift Irrigation Corporation to make it efficient and viable.

Irrigation Projects

3957. SHRI R. MARGABANDU : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to waive off the provision of the State share in the current financial year in view of the stringent financial position of the Government of Orissa due to recent super cyclone in respect of major and medium irrigation projects in KBK districts of Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (b) The Central Loan Assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme is provided on year to year basis. No request has been received from the Government of Orissa to waive off the provision of the State share in the current financial year i.e. 2000-2001 in respect of their major and medium irrigation projects in KBK districts.

Human and Material Losses due to Excess Water Floods

3958. MISS MABEL REBELLO : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the country suffer enormous human and material losses due to excess water floods and also from drought and lack of rain and that precious water goes to sea and is lost forever;

(b) whether Government are seriously considering about conserving precious rain water as Scientists have forecasted that India in the next Millennium will face the worst drought ever in the world; and

(c) whether Government have taken any viable measures to avoid this calamity which may fall the country in the near future and millions of people may suffer due to inadequate drinking water ?